



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2418

preadoption certification investigation

Prime Sponsor: Representative Allen J, LD 15

---

**DP** Committee on Children & Family Affairs

**DP** Caucus and COW

**X** House Engrossed

---

## **OVERVIEW**

HB 2418 allows a child welfare agency licensed and contracted by the Department of Child Safety (DCS) to conduct an investigation of any prospective adoptive parent before that parent can become certified to adopt a child. Conforms current investigation requirements to include a child welfare agency.

## **PROVISIONS**

1. Allows a child welfare agency licensed and contracted by the DCS to conduct an investigation of any prospective adoptive parent before that parent can become certified to adopt a child.
2. Permits a written application for adoption certification to be sent to a child welfare agency in the form and content required by that agency.
3. Requires a child welfare agency, upon receiving and accepting a written application of the prospective adoptive parent or parents, to conduct or cause to be conducted an investigation of the prospective parent
4. Requires the child welfare agency to submit a report to the juvenile court within 90 days of the original application, containing all relevant and material facts of the prospective parent's fitness to adopt children, including statutorily required information, and a definite recommendation for certifying the applicant.
5. Prohibits an applicant deemed nonacceptable to reapply for certification to the child welfare agency for one year.
6. Stipulates that a child welfare agency must only submit an updated report if an applicant has adopted a child within the preceding three years before the current application, and may only submit an updated report if the applicant has adopted another child more than three years before the current application.
7. Makes technical changes.

## **CURRENT LAW**

A.R.S. § 8-105 requires that any prospective adoptive parent be investigated by an officer of the court, an agency or DCS before they can become certified as acceptable to adopt children. Written applications for certification are required to be sent to the court, an agency, or DCS.